

CLAIMS

I/We claim:

[c1] 1. A method in a server system for providing information relating to a business application, the method comprising:
receiving a request to execute a command of a business application along with an indication of user interface elements to return;
executing the command of the business application to generate data elements;
generating the user interface elements to be returned; and
sending a response that includes the generated user interface elements and generated data elements.

[c2] 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the request indicates a type of user interface element to return.

[c3] 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the request indicates a type of user interface element to not return.

[c4] 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the type of user interface element not to return is navigation data.

[c5] 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the request includes a "SWEDataOnly" argument.

[c6] 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the request includes a "SWEExclude" argument.

[c7] 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the request is to execute a predefined query that was identified to the client system when a request for a list a predefined queries was received from the client system.

[c8] 8. A method in a server system for providing information relating to a business application, the method comprising:

providing transforms for transforming output of the business application, each transform having a name;
receiving from a client system a request to execute a command of a business application, the request optionally indicating the name of a transform to be applied to the output of the business application;
executing the command of the business application to generate output;
when the request indicates the name of a transform,
applying the provided transform with the indicated name to the generated output to generate transformed output; and
sending to the client system the transformed output; and
when the request does not indicate the name of a transform, sending to the client system the generated output.

[c9] 9. The method of claim 8 wherein the generated output is in XML format and the provided transforms are XSLT stylesheets.

[c10] 10. The method of claim 8 wherein the request includes a "SWEXsIStyleSheet" argument.

[c11] 11. A method in a server system for providing information relating to a business application, the method comprising:
providing a default format for output of the business application;
receiving from a client system a request to execute a command of a business application, the request optionally indicating a user agent

format or a client-specified format for the output of the business application; selecting a format giving preference in the following order: the client-specified format, the user-agent format, and the default format; executing the command of the business application to generate output; and sending to the client system the generated output in the selected format.

[c12] 12. The method of claim 11 wherein the user-agent format is selected over the default format in accordance with a predefined preference of formats.

[c13] 13. The method of claim 11 wherein the user-agent format is based on type of user agent specified in the request.

[c14] 14. The method of claim 13 wherein the type of user agent specifies a type of browser.

[c15] 15. The method of claim 11 wherein the formats are a markup language.

[c16] 16. The method of claim 15 wherein one of the formats is HTML.

[c17] 17. The method of claim 15 wherein one of the formats is XML.

[c18] 18. The method of claim 15 wherein one of the formats is WML.

[c19] 19. The method of claim 11 wherein the request includes a "SWESetMarkup" argument that specifies the client-specified format.

[c20] 20. A computer-readable medium containing a data structure defining an inbound command to a web server, the data structure comprising:
an execute element having a path attribute indicating a location of an object manager;
a command element nested within the execute element and having a value attribute indicating a name of a command to execute;
one or more argument elements nested within the command element, each argument element having a name attribute indicating a name of an argument for the named command, the one or more argument elements being from a set of argument elements including an argument element for indicating a response markup format, an argument element for indicating whether the response should include user interface elements, and an arguments element identifying a transform to be applied to output.

[c21] 21. The computer-readable medium of claim 20 wherein the data structure is an XML document.

[c22] 22. The computer-readable medium of claim 20 wherein zero or more occurrences of the information element are nested within the execute element.

[c23] 23. The computer-readable medium of claim 20 wherein only one command element is nested within the execute element.

[c24] 24. A computer-readable medium containing a data structure defining an outbound response sent by a web server, the data structure comprising:
an application element having a name attribute;
a navigation element nested within the application element, having a name attribute, and having sub-elements from a set including a menu

element, tool bar element, screen bar element, thread bar element, view bar element, and page item element; and one or more elements from the set of elements including a screen element, an applet element, a form element, and a predefined query bar element, the one or more elements being nested within the application element and each having a name attribute.

[c25] 25. A method in a server system for providing information relating to a business application, the method comprising:

receiving from a client system a request to execute a command of a business application, the request indicating what user interface elements to return along with the data elements as results of the execution;

executing the command of the business application to generate the data elements;

when the request indicates to return some user interface elements,

generating the user interface elements to be returned; and

sending to the client system a response that includes the generated

user interface elements and the generated data elements;

and

when the request indicates to not return user interface elements, sending

to the client system a response that includes the generated data

elements without user interface elements.

[c26] 26. The method of claim 25 wherein the request indicates a type of user interface element to return.

[c27] 27. The method of claim 25 wherein the request indicates a type of user interface element to not return.

[c28] 28. The method of claim 27 wherein the type of user interface element not to return is navigation data.

[c29] 29. The method of claim 25 wherein the request includes a "SWEDataOnly" argument.

[c30] 30. The method of claim 25 wherein the request includes a "SWEExclude" argument.

[c31] 31. The method of claim 25 wherein the request is to execute a predefined query that was identified to the client system when a request for a list a predefined queries was received from the client system.